

IN THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract as follows:

~~According to this invention, a~~A side-emitting illumination device ~~for uniformly distributing light is composed of~~including an LED light source, a light-transmitting rod ~~which permits total internal reflection,~~ and outcoupling material affixed to an outer surface of the rod. Light enters the rod at one end and travels along the rod by total internal reflection. Light that hits the outcoupling material is directed towards a side of the rod, ~~angularly distributed based on the width of the outcoupling material~~ determining the angular distribution of the side-emitting rod.